

**CHARLES TAYLOR MASTER
MECHANIC'S AWARD**

**Fairbanks Flight Standards District
Office Honoree 2004**

JAMES E. ANDERSON



ANDERSON, JAMES E. Jim Anderson was born September 22, 1936 and was raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. Jim's life-long interest in aviation really began while growing up at his home near 8th & Cowles Streets, near Weeks Field.

Jim graduated from Fairbanks High School in May of 1954. He began his long aviation career when he went to work for Fairbanks Aircraft Services, as a helper in the engine overhaul shop.

In January of 1956, he attended Northrop Aeronautical institute in Inglewood, California and graduated in 1957. While attending school, Jim worked as an airframe and engine mechanic for Western Airlines in Los Angeles, California maintaining Douglas DC-4, DC-6 and Convair aircraft. After graduating from Northrop Aeronautical Institute he returned to Fairbanks and return to work at Fairbanks Aircraft Services until February of 1959.

He joined the Army and served as a Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. His tour of duty with the Army ended in 1961 and Jim returned to Fairbanks, Alaska where he went to work for Lou's Aircraft Repair, which was owned and operated by Louis

Applegate. Louis was the first local mechanic to receive the prestigious Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award. Jim moved to Burbank, California for approximately a year where he worked for Aircraft Custom Interiors and Seat Manufacturing.

Jim returned to Fairbanks in March of 1963 and was employed by Wien Alaska Airlines in Fairbanks as an airframe/power plant mechanic. During this time, he also served as a flight attendant, for about a year, serving the Arctic coast on a DC-3 aircraft.

In 1967 and 1968, Jim was the owner and maintenance chief for a North American B-25 aircraft fire retardant bomber business. In 1968 Jim started Anderson Aircraft, where he repaired and maintained fire-fighting aircraft such as PBY's, DC-3's, B-25's and PBY-4A's.

Jim was a full-time airframe and power plant mechanic instructor, from 1968 to 1972, for the North Star Borough School District, at the North Star School of Aviation in Fairbanks, Alaska.

From 1972 to the present, Jim as been the sole owner and operator of Anderson Aircraft, where he has maintained and overhauled light and heavy duty aircraft (everything from J3 cubs and Taylorcrafts to F-27's, DC-3's and DC-6 aircraft).

Jim's shop originally was located on Fouts Field but in 1992, he moved to his new facility at Chena Marina and is still operating today.

Over the years Jim as been extensively involved in aircraft accident recovery. Jim and his family still reside in Fairbanks.

